

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Application No. 09/772,940
Attorney Docket No. Q62766

REMARKS

This Amendment, submitted in reply to the Office Action dated June 21, 2005, is believed to be fully responsive to and overcomes each point of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5 and 8-22 remain pending in the application. Claims 15-19 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Watanabe (previously of record). Claims 1-5 and 8-14 also remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Watanabe. In addition, claims 20-22 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Watanabe. Claims 1, 2 and 15 have now been amended to clarify the setting or changing of passwords, and Applicant respectfully submits the following arguments in traversal of the prior art rejections.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) - Watanabe

Claims 15-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Watanabe (Japanese Patent Number 05-204483). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner essentially maintains the same rationale in rejecting independent claim 15, and further responds to the arguments and amendments previously submitted in the Amendment of May 5, 2005. In particular, the Examiner cites to paragraphs [0012], [0017], [0020] and [0026] for the teaching that an input device of said device load performs setting or changing said first and/or second passwords via said communication section. However, Applicant respectfully submits that Watanabe fails to teach or suggest an input device “wherein changing or setting of said first or second passwords is performed by said communication section, which communicates with said apparatus memory to change said first password stored in said apparatus memory or

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communicates with said battery memory to change said second password stored in said battery memory, according to an input received by an input device of said device load," as recited in amended claim 15.

As the Examiner has noted, Watanabe discloses a power source device (1) having a function for forwarding a key code PCMD to a power source adapter (29) (paragraph [0012]). However, there is no teaching or suggestion in Watanabe of a communication section performing changing or setting of passwords according to an input received by an input device of a device load, as claimed. Even assuming arguendo that the code-setting section (29b) of the power source adapter (29) is an input device of a device load (Detailed Action page 4), Watanabe's code-setting section (29b) still does not receive an input with which a communication section accordingly communicates with code-setting section (29b) or RAM (5) to change the key codes stored in the code-setting section (29b) or RAM (5). In contrast to Watanabe, the claimed invention describes a communication section which generates a control signal through a comparison of a first password with a second password, thereby enabling electric power to the device load when the first password is identical to the second password, and disabling electric power to the device load when the first password differs from the second password. Furthermore, in the claimed invention, the changing or setting of the first or second passwords is performed by the communication section, which communicates with the apparatus memory to change the first password stored in the apparatus memory or communicates with the battery memory to change the second password stored in the battery memory, according to an input received by an input device of the device load.

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In the portable computer of Watanabe, the system bus (10) and CPU (11) (the communication section of Watanabe; Detailed Action page 2) does not perform any changing or setting of passwords according to an input received by the code-setting section (29b). Key codes in Watanabe are set independently by and solely within the individual components of the code-setting section (29b) and the key code setting mechanism (40 and 41) and RAM (5). As shown in Figure 1 of Watanabe, the power source adapter (29) is not connected to the power source device (1) through the system bus (10) and CPU (11). Instead, Watanabe's system bus (10) is connected, via a power source control interface (28), to the CPU (11) governing control of the entire system (paragraph [0011]). Watanabe's system bus (10) is not connected to the power source adapter (29), and also does not perform any changing or setting of passwords according to an input received by an input device of the source adapter (29). Watanabe's code-setting section (29b) has a mechanism for being able to manually set key code information internally having a prescribed number of digits, but is not operable to set or change either the first or second password via the communication section because the code-setting section (29b) only supplies a key code to code-discriminating section (29c). The code-setting section (29b) as an input device of the device load does not accord the communication section to perform changing or setting the first or second passwords, as claimed. Furthermore, the key code stored in RAM (5) is provided by key code setting mechanism (40 and 41) under the control of a power source control processor (2) (paragraph [0017]), therefore the key code stored in RAM (5) is not set or changed by the communication section (10 and 11) according to an input received by the input device (29b) of the load device (29). Although the key code set in the key (41) is set by manually

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operating the code-setting section (29b) (page 12, lines 6-8), the key (41) is not an apparatus memory of Watanabe's portable computer, and comparison is never made of the key code stored in the key (41). It is Watanabe's internal RAM (5) which is an apparatus memory that stores the key code which is sent to the power source adapter (29) as key code information PCMD, and the PCMD is actually set by the computer main body of Watanabe, not the code-setting section (29b) (page 16, lines 12-13). Thus, neither key code in Watanabe's code-setting section (29b) or RAM (5) is changed or set by a communication section (system bus (10) and CPU (11)) according to an input received by an input device (code-setting section (29b)). At least by virtue of the aforementioned differences, claim 15 is distinguished over Watanabe.

To the extent that the rejection of independent claim 15 is improper, Applicant submits that claims 16-19 are patentable based on their dependencies as well as for their additionally recited features. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) are respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) - Watanabe

Claims 1-5, 8-14 and 20-22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Watanabe. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner essentially maintains the same rationale in rejecting independent claims 1 and 2, and further responds to the arguments and amendments previously submitted in the Amendment of May 5, 2005. In particular, the Examiner cites to paragraphs [0012], [0017], [0020] and [0026] for the teaching that an input device performs setting or changing said first and/or second passwords via said communication section. However, as discussed above,

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Watanabe does not teach or suggest that “changing or setting of said first or second passwords is performed by said communication section, which communicates with said apparatus memory to change said first password stored in said apparatus memory or communicates with said battery memory to change said second password stored in said battery memory, according to an input received by said device load,” as Applicant claims. At least by virtue of the aforementioned differences, claims 1 and 2 are distinguished over Watanabe.

To the extent that the rejection of independent claims 1 and 2 are improper, Applicant submits that claims {3, 5, 11-13 and 20} and {4, 8-10, 14 and 21} are also patentable based on their dependencies upon independent claims 1 and 2 respectively, as well as for their additionally recited features. Claim 22 is dependent upon independent claim 15, which as discussed above, fails to teach or suggest the claimed invention. Therefore, claim 22 is also patentable based on its dependency upon independent claim 15, as well as for its additionally recited features.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are respectfully requested.

With further regards to claims 20-22, “said input device sets or changes said first and second passwords by inputting said first password through said communication section and said apparatus memory, and inputting said second password through said communication section and said battery memory, wherein said first password and said second password are identical.”

Watanabe does not teach or suggest that the code-setting section (29b) sets or changes key codes by inputting identical passwords through the system bus (10) and CPU (11) and the code-setting

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section (29b) or RAM (5). At least by virtue of these additional differences as well as for the aforementioned reasons, Applicant's claims 20-22 are distinguished over Watanabe.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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